

The Pocahontas Times

VOL 52, NO 44

MARLINTON, POCAHONTAS COUNTY WEST VIRGINIA, JUNE 21, 1934

\$1.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

THE FIRST YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENT

What The Boys of Company 1537 Have Done During the Past Year As Reviewed By the Camp Superintendent, R. W. Griffith

On the 22nd day of June, 1933, 198 West Virginia boys arrived in Marlinton from Camp Knox. They were transported to the spot where Camp Seneca now stands, which was what remained from a cut-over forest, full of stumps and brushwood. Many of the 180 stumps removed from the camp site were over three feet in diameter.

As soon as we saw the vigorous way in which the boys removed these stumps and pitched their tents, all doubt of the success of the projected forest work was removed from our minds.

On Monday morning, June 26th, we started work on four projects, road building, improvement thinning, telephone lines and fire breaks.

About July 1st a group of buildings was started, a shop, a garage, an office and a tool house, also a regulation dynamite house.

August 1st we organized the work of eradication of poisonous plants. Two weeks later we started the boundary survey of Seneca State Forest.

About the middle of September we started work on the dam 1 1/2 miles west from Camp Seneca, on Little Thorney.

During the fall we collected walnut and pine seeds for the state nursery.

When the fire season started we organized a fire patrol and so efficient was their work there was not a single fire in our district.

During November we planted 31 acres of sparse growth ground to poplar, walnut and pine.

In December we started building truck trails to penetrate the forest in all directions needed for fire protection.

In February we started building paths for sight seeing tours through the forest.

The roadside clearing was done during the winter months, in some cases with the snow twenty inches deep. The brush for 100 feet on each side of the road was cleared away and burned, for fire prevention and road beautification.

There were only two small fires in the forest this spring, and they were readily controlled. We sent men as far away as White Sulphur to help fight fires and answered every call for help that came to us.

To indicate how ready the men were to help in this work, one call at required only fifteen seconds to load a truck with eighteen men and start it for the fire.

The cooperation the Army has given us in these projects, and the energy and morale displayed by the men at work, merit our highest praise, and we are glad to acknowledge our debt to them.

The money expended in these projects will be a permanent investment of great value to the state of West Virginia, not only in forest products, but also in recreational facilities for the citizens of the state.

The forest personnel has been composed of the following: B. B. Hill, engineer; Carl Livesay, forester; Philmore Cox, Charles Simmons, W. A. Skaggs, V. M. Fisher, J. L. Guthrie, Otis Wright, Ed Hudson, W. L. Herold, E. B. Earle, Albert Hedrick, Prof. G. W. Martin, all foremen.

The Conservation Commission of West Virginia has caught the vision from President Roosevelt of a work which "is of definite, practical value, not only through the prevention of great present financial loss, but also as a means of creating future national wealth." The record of achievement of Camp Seneca for the past year is shown below in tabular form.

Work That Has Been Done By Camp Seneca

Telephone lines, 13 miles; Fire breaks, 45 miles; Roadside clearing fire prevention, 6 miles; Fighting forest fires, 290 man days; Fire patrol, 60 man days; Forest stand improvement, 2100 acres; Minor truck trails, 6 miles; Fire truck trail, 8 miles; Planting, 31 acres; Seed collection, 1120 pounds; Eradication of poisonous plants, 10,847 acres; Boundary survey, 35 miles; Ponds for fish and birds, 1; Landscaping 65 acres; Guard rails, 1 mile; Cabins and other buildings, 7; Foot trails, 1 mile.

R. W. Griffith, Camp Supt.

"CHIEF SENECA" NEWSPAPER STAFF

Editor-in-Chief Harold Sullivan
Asst. Managing Editor Edwin Ballard
Business Manager Louis Cesa
News Editor Leon Boso
Sports Editor Fred Steadman
Edvt. Manager Odie Clarkson
Art Editor Fred Harrison
Society Editor Guy Loudermilk
Reporters Lewis Lyle, Carl Graham

Captain Howerly Congratulates Camp Seneca On First Anniversary.

The following is a copy of the message from Captain Howerly.

Co. 1537 C. C. Camp Seneca, Marlinton, West Va. Best wishes to the finest company in C. C. C. on the first anniversary of Camp Seneca.

Captain Howerly.

To the men, and forestry personnel of Co. 1537 I extend my sincere greetings and offer my congratulations on your work.

You have carried on in the face of many difficulties in a very admirable manner. You are the finest bunch of men I ever saw gathered together in such a great cause.

On this, our Anniversary, we are happy to know that we have the finest camp, finest morale and best accomplishments in the CCC.

Again, on behalf of the official staff, let me congratulate you on this, our first Anniversary and may you go on to bigger and better things in the coming year.

Lt. Frederick F. Riley, Adjutant.

Captain Hutchison Visits Camp

Captain Edlon A. Hutchison, District Chaplain, paid Camp Seneca a visit Sunday morning, June 10th, 1934.

Lieutenant Riley presided at the devotional exercises.

The opening song was our old favorite, "In the Garden."

Capt. Hutchison read the lesson from Deuteronomy and led in prayer. The subject of his talk was, "Ye are a people of inheritance".

The talk was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by both the old and the new boys in camp.

Capt. Hutchison voiced his appreciation to the boys who are leaving, for their splendid work, as well as for the fine spirit they have shown and the good name they have earned for Camp Seneca.

A Forest by The Assistant Educational Adviser

From what I have seen of the enthusiastic way in which the boys have started work on the various projects started by the educational adviser, I believe they will not only gain knowledge of the work itself but they will also be rewarded in the future by the experience they obtain along the particular lines in which they take part.

In return for the work they do and the knowledge they obtain, I believe every man will learn something about his ability to work along various lines. Also, we will learn more about the men and will be able to recommend them for the sort of work they are best fitted to do in the world outside of Camp Seneca.

Vernon Willis, Asst. Educational Adviser.

Resume of Sports At Camp Seneca

The following is a brief statement of games won and lost in the organized sports at Camp Seneca, during the past year.

Baseball- Champion of camps, 14 won 1 lost.

Basketball- Champion of camps, 6 won 1 lost.

Volley Ball- Champion of camps, 12 won 0 lost.

Softball- 3 won 5 lost.

Horseshoes- 5, lost 5 won.

Boxing- 2 Championships won at District finals in Elkins.

We believe that this is the most varied and most successful sports program of all the C. C. C. camps in the state. We cordially invite challenges in any sports from any C. C. C. Camp in West Va.

CHIEF SENECA SAYS

We live in a concrete, moving, fascinating camp, alive with men constantly in action. It is out endeavor on this, the first anniversary of Camp Seneca to publish some of the high lights of the past year.

This is the first issue of "Chief Seneca", the newspaper which tries to mirror the many activities of camp life. From the humble beginning we hope that we will be able to publish a sheet which will bring the members of our company closer together, and at the same time will teach them to abserve those things which are of the most interest to the greatest number.

We extend a cordial invitation to all enrollees at camp Seneca to contribute regularly to our paper, and to give this educational project their hearty cooperation. We hope to improve the paper as we gain more experience in this line of work, and any suggestions along that line will be greatly received.

Harold Sullivan, Editor In Chief.

BEAUTIFUL LAKE SENECA

Lake Seneca, an artificial body of water created by the workers of Co. 1537 at Camp Seneca, is 1 and one half miles west of the camp and is in the heart of the Seneca State Forest. It is reached by a splendid road which weaves over the ridge and down into the valley of Little Thorney Creek.

A dam was constructed 24 feet wide at the top, 16 feet high, and 16 2 feet long. This dam expounds enough water to cover a much larger area, but because of the steepness of the creek banks it is a long ribbon of softly shimmering silver in the moon light.

The construction of logs and clay, about 116,000 feet of logs and about 4,000 cubic yards of clay. About 40 tons of rock were dumped on the face of the dam to prevent erosion. The extreme width of the base is 80 feet.

A crew of fifty men worked for 3 months to complete the dam, clearing the bottom of the stream bed, but clearing away the needless brush.

The lake is intended for recreational purposes and as a fish hatchery. It has 7,200 fish in it at present. There are four log cabins under construction, each having three rooms and a bath house. Pure water is obtained from wells dug into the rock nearby. The houses will be furnished for light housekeeping. The bath house has six dressing rooms for men and six for women. The natural beauty of the surroundings will make this a famous vacation spot. A good road is being constructed to the Greenbrier, just over the mountain toward Cloverlick. Come and see it, "Lake Seneca The Beautiful".

SWIMMING AND LIFE SAVING

As one of the important phases of our educational program we have before us the problem of organizing an active swimming and lifesaving class. It is the plan to improve the safety of our camp. Four of the enrollees have been chosen as instructors in swimming and life saving. The men are competent swimmers and will be required to pass the life saving test before they begin their work.

Louis Cesa, Leon Boso, Edwin Ballard and Avis Drell are the enrollees chosen as instructors. They are experienced men and will handle the work well.

The enrollee who can't swim will be given instructions in the proper swimming strokes and will be coached until they can swim 100 feet unaided. We hope that before the summer is over every man in Camp Seneca will be able to swim and will understand the rudiments of life saving. Though this means many will enrol to enjoy water sports in the future years and many lives will be saved.

We expect to organize a camp swimming team which will compete against teams from other places. We hope the men will take an active interest in swimming as an organized sport and will help out our educational program.

THE MEDICAL HISTORY OF CAMP SENECA

Among the many accomplishments to which the Civilian Conservation Corps can point with pardonable pride, none is more remarkable than its bill of health. Hundreds of thousands of untrained young men, abruptly taken from their home communities, and subjected to living conditions totally strange and somewhat terrifying, have adjusted themselves to crowded barracks, primitive sanitary facilities, and all of the dangers that the forests sold for the child of the city. One would expect an alarming list of deaths from snakebite, falling trees, axe injuries, truck wrecks, forest fires, contagious diseases and other dangers too numerous to mention. What a contrast to this natural expectation to learn that for the first eight months of the CCC Camps, deaths from all causes totaled 234—less than one-tenth of one percent. Has anyone forgotten the wave of disease that decimated the training camps when we entered the World War? Truly, the lesson these thousands of young men have been taught is an invaluable one.

They have been taught how to live together in crowded camps, and under primitive sanitary conditions, and still maintain their health and efficiency to a remarkable degree. Of any who might harbor the wish that the CCC Camps had been set up on a strictly military basis, consider this: If the day comes when these young men shall be called to the colors, the task of teaching them how to carry a gun and how to execute the manual of arms and close-order drill will be a very simple and easy one, especially when compared to the lessons they have already mastered, in learning to live together in health and happiness.

Lieutenant Podesta, Camp Surgeon

FOR TASTY LUNCHES visit Kirkpatrick's Lunch Room at Cass.

SENECA'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FRR CAMP SENECA

While there has been a great deal of educational work done at Camp Seneca during the year just past, it has not been in the ordinary "classroom" type. Nor will it be during the coming years. A study of the educational background of the enrollee at Camp Seneca indicates that they left the formal classroom largely because the work there was not "practical" enough to suit them. This was perhaps only vaguely felt at times, and very little criticism has been indulged in since, but the change in the expression has been of a different type in the eyes of an enrollee when our "project" type of educational work is explained to him shows very clearly that he has made up his mind that a formal school work does not seem worth the time and effort required.

After a careful survey of conditions at Camp Seneca certain educational projects have been selected for the summer, to which others will be added as a need arises.

The first of these is a building of a log cabin to house the educational facilities. A group of enrollees will work on this project under expert supervision, and theory will be expounded as practical work proceeds. A newspaper has been started, of which this is the first edition. The log cabin project will give practical applications of mathematics, so the newspaper will be in English.

THE EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

In the development of Seneca's educational program, one of the most important projects under way at this time is the erection of a log cabin that will be thirty feet square, in the pine grove behind the officers quarters. This cabin will house the office of the educational adviser, will provide study room for the students, and will be used to display the various exhibits now being prepared. There will be a reception room, with a stone fireplace, where enrollees may entertain members of their family and various other visitors. It is expected that this building will be equipped to accommodate over night visitors. The newspaper office will be in the cabin, and it is hoped that facilities for printing our own paper will shortly be obtained. A mimeograph and two typewriters are needed for this purpose, and the location of either or both of these mentioned machines will be gratefully acknowledged by the staff. The construction of this cabin will be under the supervision of Carl Graham, and upon the completion it will be placed at the disposal of the educational adviser and his assistants. Logs will be carefully selected from Seneca State Forest, under the direction of Mr. Griffith, Camp Superintendent, and the preparation and placement of the logs will be under the supervision of the forestry department. All of the work and most of the planning will be done by camp enrollees, as an educational project in the building of the log cabin.

SOCIAL WORK AT CAMP SENECA

The social work at Camp Seneca will be definitely organized to "provide instructions in instrumental and vocal music, in the round and square dance. In decoration and refreshment for social gatherings, and in various other phases of social life.

This program will be organized under the direction of Odie Clarkson, who has shosen as his enrollees the following:

Howard Peters, Who will manage the round dance; Ulysses Dean, Who will manage the square dance; Hoxie McClung will manage the instrumental music; Barney Earl will manage the vocal music; Denver McGirr will manage the decorating work; Louis Cesa will manage the refreshments.

Since most of these men are old enrollees, who will be discharged in June, each will choose one or more men to assist him in his work. From these assistants we will select a new manager for these activities on July, 1st. It is hoped that every enrollee will take an active part in the social life of Camp Seneca, since this is one of the best means of preventing camp tedium; it is also one of the most important projects in the educational field. It trains the young man to take active part in the social life of his community when he leaves Camp Seneca.

The social work of Camp Seneca will be definitely organized and will be conducted by a selected group of enrollees who will learn how to make themselves socially useful in their home communities by studying the phases of social work in Camp Seneca. First aid, swimming and life saving, and organized sports will be managed by carefully selected men

who are interested in these activities, having sufficient knowledge of them to instruct their fellows, and who can train the men to take their places when they leave Camp Seneca.

Social work will require a study of music, rhythm, graceful physical motion, decoration, preparation and serving of refreshments, and many other practical things. Sports, first aid, life saving, and the like, will teach physiology, hygiene, biology, botany, physics, chemistry, and other such subjects, in an interesting and useful way.

In a word, our educational program is designed to send our enrollees back to their home communities better trained to make themselves useful citizens, husbands and fathers.

Carl G. Campbell, Educational Adviser.

CAMP SENECA SOCIETY

Louis Cesa paid a short visit to the camp the other day, after an extended visit in Marlinton. He reports that he has everything under control in the city and that the "oyster" business is picking up. Nuf ced.

Several parties have been held under this big June moon recently, the enrollee from Camp Seneca and young ladies from down the country participating. Judging from the appearance of the "morning after" some great times were enjoyed by all. Ain't that just grand?

William "B. S." Johnston, former playboy of the Greenbrier, has returned to his old stamping grounds, White Sulphur Springs. Mr. Johnston informed us that he will spend the month of July at Virginia Beach. SOME !!! cries yes, go on Willie.

Sargent Jenkins was a visitor in Camp Seneca June 19-20. Mr. Jenkins stated that he expected to come again before the old boys are mustered out June 30th. Yes do come to see us again, Sarge.

Sanitary Sargent Willie Mohas, in case the fair damsels of Marlinton have not been informed, has gone his way from Camp Seneca. He bids us to try to console his many lady friends in his absence. At your service Sarge.

"Gentlemen prefer blonds", and if you don't believe it just ask Jack Peters and Jack Roberts for the low down on things.

Look here for your name here the next time. Watch your step.

The Beautification Contest.

When word got around that a ten dollar prize was being offered for the best beautification project in the plit between the barracks the men got to work with great enthusiasm and an interesting contest developed.

Each barracks elected a leader to direct the work on the ground allotted to it, which in each case that ground which separated it from the barrack to the west. The woodsmen who occupied the north end of the headquarters building joined forces with men in the adjoining barrack and took just as much interest in the project as the enrollees themselves.

For every night for two weeks the men worked and very early in the morning, digging out stumps, leveling off rock, laying off shale paths, putting in rock borders, setting out pine, hemlock, spruce, laurel, rhododendron, ferns, and other native trees and shrubs and plants.

When the day of judgement arrived which was Sunday, June 10th, the entire area enclosed by the barracks had been transformed into a beautiful garden. The judges, Chas. Richardson, Charles McLaughlin, and A. E. Cooper, studied the plots very carefully and finally reached a decision that the prize should go to barrack No. 2. While the plot belonging to barrack No. 5 and 1 were given honorable mention. To the many visitors present it was evident that all five plots deserved honorable mention, and the change in the general appearance of Camp Seneca makes the work well worth the labor involved.

Things you seldom See

Brookover with a screwdriver in his hand.

Ross Steele with a bottle.

"Baldy" Molnar wisecracking.

Louis Cesa chiseling a salesmen.

Thomas Low changing rings before dates.

Jack Peters running around half dressed.

"Butch" Hoffman answering mess call promptly.

Carl Graham "shooting the bull".

"Bumk" Conrad salting on—who?

Ed Ballard tooting the flute a La-Elmer.

The "dream boys" spending the evening in camp.

Harold Sullivan selling a suit.

Denver McGirr calling on the girl. There's a funny ?? ???? ?

A real funny article in the "Chief Seneca". "Give us some"

ENROLLEES TO BE DISCHARGED JUNE 30th

Leaders—Jess A. Buchanan, Louis J. Cesa, Joe E. Fry, Daniel A. Gardner, Carl H. Graham, Robert C. Jenkins, Willis Peters, Joseph B. McMillan.

Assistant Leaders—Hurly W. Altizer, Sherrel W. Brookover, Berlin V. Conrad, James N. Goodnow, Ramsey Grogg, Fred Hanna, Ross Haffner, George M. Molnar, George, Shannon, Ross Steel, George E. Smith.

Enrollees—Lewis Adkins, Charles B. Bolesey, Howard C. Bowden, Charles J. Bragg, John C. Clark, John L. Crawford, Claud Cresong, Fred Ellis, Harold J. Fultz, Dennis A. Grimes, Sylvester C. Hill, William B. Hoffman, John Johnson, Carl Jones, James M. Lee, Ralph Linville, Sam C. Lovelace, James T. Lowe, John G. Luff, Hoxie McClung, Denver L. McGirr, Clarence E. Miller, Cary Mullens, Esaw W. Mullens, Naaman Mullens, Eliza A. Reed, Richard F. Webster, Dewey S. Rider, Frank Rider, Jack Roberts, Everett L. Seldomridge, John F. Sommerfield, Frederick F.

WHEN YOU HIRE A MAN, HIRE AN ENROLLEE!

The above slogan is intended for employers in West Virginia, to whom are heartily commended the 63 men who will leave Camp Seneca, June 30 after having served over a year as enrollees. A survey of the projects completed by the forestry department, as shown in Superintendent Griffith's report, will indicate that these men have the training to make them useful in any sort of business, particularly where outside work is to be done. Our enrollees have been hardened by exposure to mountain weather, and by thirty hours of hard work every week. They have shown an ability to "take it" which is much needed in modern industrial life. Again, we urge you, "when you hire a man, hire an enrollee."

Steadman, Harold C. Sullivan, Emmett Taylor, Robert L. Tomblin, Milroy W. Waugh, Avrill G. Williams, George T. Williamson, Herbert Witman, Lara Wrathford.

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